

1905-019
Lee Co

Chancery Causes: Wil Bowman vs. Elizabeth Bowman

Stewart, Oaks, Cook

CH-Divorce
T-Vices

-Correspondence

Honorable, H. A. W. Skeen Judge of the circuit court for Lee County Virginia.

Your Orator; Nil Bowman, a citizen of Lee county Virginia, humbly complaining showeth to yor honor that he is now and has been for more than one year next before the bringing of this suit a citizen of Lee county Virginia.

That on tyhe _____ day of _____ 1902 *Snedville Tenn.* in ~~Harlan county Kentucky~~, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Bowman then Elizabeth Stewert in good faith, believing herto be a virtuous woman.

They lived together *only a few days* ~~only a few days~~ until your orator found her to be unchaste, and dicovered that she was *in a pregnant* ~~untrue to him and~~ *condition.* ~~was committing acts of adultery.~~

That on making this discovery he left her and has not lived with nor cohabited with her since nor had any thing whatever to do with her.

Since that time she has committed acts of adultery, this within the last five years, lived the life of a prostitute and given birth to two children by some man other than your orator, said acts of adultery were committet within five years before the bringing of this ~~this~~ suit and without your orators procure ment or connivance, *To wit*

That On or about Sep. --1904 defendant was seen in the embrace of
a man , on a hill near her home south of Jonesville, Va. and again
about Oct. -- 1904 in a woodland on town branch south of Jonesville
defendant was seen with her dress over her head and in the act of
illicit intercourse with another man and also at other times and places.

Your orator avers that there has been no collusion whatever between him and the said Elizabeth Bowman to obtain a divorce.

That your orator is advised that he is entitled by law to obtain a divorce, from the said Elizabeth Bowman.

In consideration of all of which your orator prays that the said Elizabeth Bowman ^{to this lib.} be made a party defendant _r and be required to answer the same but not under oath, that being waived and that a divorce a vinculo matrimonii be granted him dissolving the ties of matrimony heretofore contracted and now existing between him and the said Elizabeth Bowman, and that full and general relief be granted and he will ever pray etc.

J. O. Woodward P. q.

Nil Bowman
vs } En. Chancery
Elizabeth Bowman

Filed August-22nd 1905.
H. T. Ewing,
Clerk.

1905-2nd August Rules
Bill filed and Sp.
executed.
" 1st September Rules
Cause set for
hearing.

1900 to 10

B-

Costs:

Clerk	4.38
Shff	.90
Atty.	15.00
Tal	1.50
Comm.	2.25
Writ.	.50

\$24.53

1.00
25.53
5.34

Nil. Bowman.

Plaintiff.

vs

In Chancery

Elizabeth Bowman

Defendant.

THIS cause came on this day to be heard upon the bill of the plaintiff; process duly executed on the defendant; depositions filed therein and was argued by counsel.

On consideration whereof it appearing to the court that process had been served on defendant more than fifteen days before the first day of this term of the court, and that said defendant had not appeared, demurred, pled or answered to said bill, it is therefore adjudged, ordered and decreed that said bill be taken for confessed as to her.

It further appearing to the court from the evidence that the defendant Elizabeth Bowman was at time of marriage in a pregnant condition, that she has since given birth to two children and is also guilty of lewd and adulterous conduct it is therefore ordered adjudged and decreed that the bonds of matrimony heretofore existing between the said Nil Bowman and Elizabeth Bowman be and the same are hereby *disolved and nothing further to be done* stricken from the docket.

the cause is

Nil Bowman
vs { Final Decree
Elizabeth Bowman

Entered in R.O.B.
No 8, Page 109 vs.

Enter this decree
H.A.W. Skene
This Dec. 12, 1905,

To Mrs. Elizabeth Bowman.

Take notice that at the law office of J. M. Orr -
in the town of Jonesville Va on 8th day of
Dec, 1905 I shall proceed to take the
deposition of C. M. Ely and others to be
read in my behalf in a certain suite
in Chancery now pending in the Circuit
Court of Lee County Va wherein I am
plaintiff and you are defendant.
If said depositions are not
completed on that day ~~some~~ will
be adjourned from day to day until
completed.

This Dec, 8th 1905.

Phil Bowman -
by counsel

for

J. O. M. ~~deputy~~

Notice

Created by
Summerville

Elizabeth Barron by depute
ing to per a true copy of the within notice
this do 7 of Dec 1905

Wm. D. Denny

P. M. Hall, S. L. L.

The depositions of James Oaks. Vil Bauman
& Lou Cook.

taken before the undersigned Commissioner in
Chancery of the Circuit Court of Lee County Va,
at his law office in the town of Jonesville
Va, on the 8th day of Decr 1905, pursuant to
Notice herewith filed, and which depositions
are intended to be read as evidence on
behalf of the plaintiff in a certain suit in
Chancery pending in the Circuit Court of said
County in which Vil Bauman is plaintiff
and Elizabeth Bauman is defendant.
Present. The plaintiff and J. O. Woodward his counsel

The said Vil Bauman a witness of lawful
age and being duly sworn deposes & says.

Ques. 1 By plaintiff's Counsel.

Are you the plaintiff in this
case and the husband of
defendant?

Ans. I am both.

2 State your age, occupation and
place of residence?

Ans. Twenty two years. near Jonesville Va. Farmer.

3 When and where were you ^{& left} married
and how long did you live together?

Ans. Sept 7th 1902, at Sneedville Tenn. We lived together about two weeks.

4 Were you then a citizen of this county and have you remained so since?

Ans. I was and have so remained.

5 When and where did you and your wife separate and what circumstances led to the separation?

Ans. We did separate, about two weeks after we were married. I became convinced that she was pregnant, by some other man, and I told her I would not live with her any longer and that she could go home and she went, and I have not lived or cohabited with her since.

6 Did she afterward give birth to a child? If so give your information in regard to the date of its birth and the ^{length} ~~space~~ of time that ~~elapsed~~ ^{elapsed} between the date of your marriage and the time of its birth.

Ans. She did and my information was that the child was born in Feb after our marriage Sept 7th, and I saw her with the child not later than last of March 1903.

7. Has she continued to commit adulterous practices? if so give what information you have of same?

Ans. She has and has given birth to another child.

8. Have you any letters in your possession addressed to your wife from another man? if so I will ask you to file them with your deposition as an exhibit marked letters? And is she sometimes known and called "Lis" Bowman?

Ans. I have two such letters and I file them herewith marked as requested. She is generally called "Lis" Bowman.

9. Did you marry her in good faith believing her to be a virtuous woman?

Ans. I did.

Has her adulterous conduct been by your consent or connivance and has there been any collusion or agreement between you and her to secure a divorce?

Ans.

It has not and there has been no collusion or agreement between us to be divorced.

And further this deponent saith not.

Will Bowman.

James Oaks another witness of lawful age and being duly sworn deposes & says.

Ques 1.

Are you acquainted with Will Bowman the plaintiff in this cause and also with his wife Elizabeth Bowman?

Ans.

I am, and have known them since their marriage, I in fact knew them before they were married.

2

Tell what you know if any thing of adulterous conduct on the part of Elizabeth Bowman?

Ans.

I was on the town Branch, one Sunday, last June, and I heard some one talking, in the edge of the cedars, and I looked and saw her with her clothes up above her knees, and Jim Hygal with his hand up under her clothes. They heard me and ran up through the cedars out of sight.

- 3 Do you know whether or not she has given birth to any children since her and plaintiff were married? If so state what you know in regard to same?

Ans.

She has given birth to two. The first one was born, I do not know the date, but I saw her at my father's, ~~the~~ Oaks, in the ^{next} Spring after they were married, not later than April.

- 4 Do you know when plaintiff and defendant separated and whether or not they have lived or cohabited since? If they have not lived together state where each does and how since lived?

Ans.

I remember they separated in about two weeks after marriage, and he has lived with his

father since their separation and she has
lived with her father, and they have not
lived or cohabited together as man and wife
since their separation.

5- What is this woman's
character among the people
who know her; that of a
virtuous woman or a
prostitute?

Ans. Her reputation is that of a prostitute.

And further this deponent saith not.

James ^{his} ~~Oaks~~
mark

Lon Cook another witness
of lawful age; and being
duly sworn deposes and
says:-

Ques. 1.-

Do you know Hil Bowman
and his wife Elizabeth Bowman?

Ans.

I do.

2

What do you know of her
character among the people
who know her.
If you know of any notorious
practices on her part tell of
them?

(7)
Sub.

She used to be a prostitute, I knew her before she married plaintiff and since and within the last three years, and she was a prostitute before she married plaintiff and has been since, she has been guilty of adulterous conduct to my knowledge both before and since her marriage which marriage I am informed occurred Sept 7th 1922.

And further this deponent saith nat.
Lan Bank

The foregoing depositions of James Oaks, Hil Beaman, & Lan Bank were taken subscribed and sworn to before me at the time and place and for the purposes in the caption mentioned. Given under my hand. Decr. 8th 1925.

James H. Orr, Court,
in chancery.

Court-fee \$2.25-

Nil Bauman.

vs. Defs

Elizabeth Bauman.

Filed Dec 9th 1905.

H. E. T. Ewing,
Clerk.

Court's fee \$2.25-

Harlan, Ky.

March 1st 1904

Miss Miss Bowman my Dear
friends I will tell you
later to let you know
that I am not alone
anymore I am going
to Dayre to see you before
very long. I will write
to you I want you to
write me and tell me
when to come I want
you to write me often
and I will do the same
you tell me when to
come and I will be
there if I am able if
I can see my mother
she is ~~in~~ now
be sure to write me
as soon as you can
and tell me what

I am to come and be there
to be out at Russell
I will be late before
that I can get there
I will be about 4 o'clock
with Perry now but
some time and I will
come to some and
we will get out after
break I have filed me
about that time to come
you be there to get
some of my me at
Harlan I would
like to go you to
some place to the up
the house if you can
I am going to the
you know the house will
be it but me I am going
if I can find and tell me

7

y

March 1890

190

Mrs. Miss Bowman
 I will
 give you again the day
 of the day an year ago
 but I was light and I
 was that is was so light
 that you would not see
 it. I don't recollect that
 what I told you now
 or I am coming over to
 see you before long. I
 want you to come and tell
 me what day to come I come
 some about long time ago so
 about then and give me time
 to get you also and I will
 give you again before I come
 I want you to welcome at
 Jonesville and I will be you
 a present and I will give

I
 come with you if you so de-
 vely and tell the others will be
 at your and the same business
 coming along with me tell
 me if you are afraid of your
 father and mother tell me about
 everything you know - I would like
 to hear of you and from there
 myself. I hope of course you said
 that you would be with me and
 so I am sure of it and I am
 waiting for you if you want to
 see how the girls are as soon as
 you get to the city and tell
 me how that I can see you
 at the same time and come to your
 school. That I may be there
 on a certain day I will be
 about 4 o'clock in the
 evening before that I am
 at the city and see

I hope to come to see you this
 winter, as I will not
 forget to send any name list
 that you might get your
 name in the list what ever
 you want to include will not
 be a problem. I am coming
 if I have say about what
 time for me to come and
 tell me when I come not
 to come you know what I mean
 I would like to come to see you
 that you would be well to that
 we could have a very good
 and I hope to see you
 I hope I am coming to see you
 to see you to see you to see you
 from you to see you

The mind in the forest
wakened to the great world
the voice that I hear
the still presence of the
great world

9
13



Miss Eliza Bowman

Amesville

U



The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of the County of Lee, Greeting:

WE COMMAND YOU, That you summon *Elizabeth Bowman*

to appear at the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of the County of Lee, at rules to be held for the said court, on
the *3rd* Monday in *August*, 190*5*, to answer a bill in chancery exhibited against *her*
in our said court - by Ed Bowman

And have then there this writ. Witness, H. C. T. EWING, Clerk of our said Court, at the court-house, the *5th*
day of *August*, 190*5*, and 1 *30th* year of the Commonwealth.

A Copy, Teste:

H. C. T. Ewing, Clerk.

_____, Clerk.

Proc 70
20
Comm 2. 25'
3-0 pd -

Nil Bowman

VS

}

SUBPOENA
IN
CHANCERY.

Elizabeth Bowman

J. D. Woodward p. q

To 2nd Aug. Rules.

See Exhibit Court.
1905.

Executed by deliver-
ing a true copy of
the within writ to
Elizabeth Bowman,
This Aug. 15, 1905.
W. B. Short, D.S.
for P. M. Ball
S. C.

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of the County of Lee, Greeting:

WE COMMAND YOU THAT YOU SUMMON

James Oaks

Jas. H. Orr, a Court. in Chancery for the his office
to appear before, the ~~Judge of our~~ Circuit Court of the County of Lee, at the court house thereof, on the *8th*
day of *December* 190*5*, to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the *Plaintiff*

in a certain matter of controversy in our said court before the
said Judge depending and undetermined between

Will Bowman

Plaintiff, and

Elizabeth Bowman

Defendant.

And this

he

shall in no wise omit, under the penalty of £100. And have then there this writ.

Witness, H. C. T. EWING, Clerk of our said court, at the court-house the *28th* day of

November 190*5*, and in the *30th* year of the Commonwealth.

H. C. T. Ewing, Clerk.

Nov 30 1905
Nil Bowman

VS.

}
SUBPOENA
FOR
WITNESS

Elizabeth Bowman

J. W. Cris Officer Court,
the 8th day of December,

1905

Executed this
30 day of Nov 1905
by Sherburne
James Baker.

J. J. Hughes Deputy
for Sherburne
J. J. R.

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of the County of Lee, Greeting:

WE COMMAND YOU THAT YOU SUMMON

D. H. Mink + Lois Leach

undersigned Court in Chancery
to appear before the Judge of our Circuit Court of the County of Lee, at the court-house thereof, on the *8th*
day of *December* 190*8*, to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the *Plaintiff*

in a certain matter of controversy in our said court before the
said Judge depending and undetermined between *Nel Bauman*

Plaintiff, and

Lizzie Bauman Defendants . And this *he*
shall in no wise omit, under the penalty of £100. And have then there this writ.

Witness, H. C. T. EWING, Clerk of our said court, at the court-house the *8th* day of *Decr*
190*8*, and in the *12th* year of the Commonwealth.

James W. Orr, Court.

Nil Beuman

vs.

}
SUBPOENA
FOR
WITNESS

Liggie Beuman

Circuit Court,
the *8th* day of *Decr*

1905.-
Executed by summoning
Laur Bank. Decr 8.

1905.-

M. H. Loring
D. S.

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of the County of Lee, Greeting:

WE COMMAND YOU THAT YOU SUMMON

C. H. Ely

Geo. W. Orr, Coun. in Chy. for the *his office*
to appear before, ~~the Judge of our~~ Circuit Court of the County of Lee, at ~~the court-house thereof~~, on the *8th*
day of *December*, 190*5*, to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the

Plaintiff, in a certain matter of controversy in our said court before the
said Judge depending and undetermined between

Neil Bowman

Plaintiff, and

Elizabeth Bowman

Defendants

And this

he

shall in no wise omit, under the penalty of £100. And have then there this writ.

Witness, H. C. T. EWING, Clerk of our said court, at the court-house the *6th* day of

December, 190*5*, and in the *180th* year of the Commonwealth.

H. C. T. Ewing, Clerk.

Nil Bowman

VS.

}

SUBPOENA
FOR
WITNESS

Elizabeth Bowman

J. H. Orr's office Court,

the 9th day of Dec'r

1905